Primary Focus of Specific Community Movements

Across the country, diverse community-driven partnerships have emerged to tackle America's most difficult issues. These issues range from a need to create new jobs, to health and safety, to positive youth development, and urban sprawl. Many communities, especially rural communities, do not have the people, energy or resources to organize around all the different initiatives that have emerged. Communities need to understand how best to use their local assets to effect positive change. As communities plan for the future, these citizen-based movements can provide insight and help to set strategic priorities. These various movements can all work together to help your community achieve a shared vision.

Healthy Communities Initiatives (Health focus)
Healthy Communities works to strengthen local, regional, and statewide health and quality of life indicators & to make community health and quality of life a determining factor in every local action, policy choice, and resource allocation decision. (Norris, Tyler, Howell, Linde. Healthy People in Healthy Communities A Dialogue Guide). Websites: http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/healthycommunities/hcomm2.html . http://www.communityinitiatives.com/fcc.html.
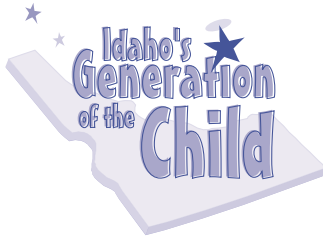
Sustainable Communities (Environmental focus)
Sustainability means long-term cultural, ecologic, and economic health and vitality. It has also been defined as meeting the needs today while ensuring that future generations can continue to meet their own needs. Sustainability involves preserving the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Managing sprawl with wise growth solutions including establishing urban growth boundaries, preserving farmland and green space, investing in alternate forms of transportation, and building compact pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, are strategies used to help manage growth and control sprawl. Websites: http://www.usmayors.org/USCM/sustainable/, http://www.olywa.net/roundtable/

Safe Communities (Safety focus)
Nine agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation are working together to promote and implement a safer national transportation system by combining the best injury prevention practices into the Safe Communities approach to serve as a model throughout the nation. With thousands of people killed and millions more injured nationwide in traffic crashes every year, the Safe Communities approach has been proven to assist communities in reducing the all too frequent occurrence and unwarranted, wasteful costs of transportation related injuries. Website: http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/outreach/safecomm/streets/page1.html.

Smart Growth (Economic Focus)
Smart growth leverages new growth to improve the community. Features that distinguish smart growth in general include investments of time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities and older suburbs. New smart growth is more town-centered, is transit and pedestrian oriented, and has a greater mix of housing, commercial, and retail uses. It also preserves open space and many other environmental amenities. But there is no "one-size-

fits-all" solution. Successful communities do tend to have one thing in common—a vision of where they want to go and of what things they value in their community—and their plans for development reflect these values. Source: *Why Smart Growth: A Primer* (International City/County Management Association) 1998.

Communities That Care (Prevention Focus-Risk and Protective Factors)

The "Communities That Care" (CTC) process provides research based tools to help communities mobilize to promote the positive development of children and youth and to prevent adolescent problem behaviors that impede positive development including substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. The CTC process was developed by David Hawkins, Ph.D. and Richard Catalano, Ph.D to help communities plan, implement, and evaluate proven-effective prevention programs to meet their particular needs. CTC includes risk and protective factors, community readiness and other processes that have been incorporated into the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare prevention planning tools. Website: http://depts.washington.edu/sdrg/

America's Promise (Youth Development focus)

America's Promise was developed to help mobilize people to build the character and competence of our nation's youth by fulfilling Five Promises: ongoing relationships with caring adults, safe places with structured activities, a healthy start, marketable skills, and opportunities to give back.
In essence, America's Promise is calling upon Americans of all ages and backgrounds to create a nation of neighborhoods, uniting citizens of all nationalities, religious faiths, and political parties in a common goal — meeting the needs of our children and youth. Website: http://www.americaspromise.org/.

Search Institute Healthy Community Healthy Youth (40 Developmental Asset Focus)

Not to be confused with the Healthy Community Initiatives, the Search Institute Healthy Communities focus is to advance the well-being of adolescents and children by generating knowledge about the 40 Developmental Assets and promoting its application. To accomplish this mission, the institute generates, synthesizes, and communicates new knowledge regarding healthy youth development, convenes organizational and community leaders, and works with state and national organizations. Website: http://www.search-institute.org/

The National Civic League (Civic Democracy)

The National Civic League is the United States' oldest organization advocating for the issues of community democracy. Civic democracy envisions a community where citizens are actively engaged in the process of self-governance and work in partnership with the public, private, and non-profit sectors of society, and where citizens are creating active civic culture reflective of the diversity of community voices. Website: http://www.ncl.org/about/index.html.